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Subject: SUMMARY OF THE DAT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1999
AND CHINOOK MONITORING UPDATE
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The next DAT Conference Call will be Wednesday, December 8, 1999,
from 10a - 12 noon. The number is 657-4111.

SUMMARY OF DAT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1999

Participants: Marty Kjelson, Mark Pierce, Roger Guinee, Deborah McKee,
Michele Simpson, Sheila Greene, Victor Pacheco, Kate Le,
Dave Robinson, Chet Bowling, John Burke, Rick Sitts,
Jim Snow, David Briggs

CHINOOK SALMON MONITORING

SALMON MONITORING

Upper Sacramento River

GCID - Catch decreased over the last week. Two weeks ago,
the catch of yearlings averaged 11 per day, this week
it averaged 6. AFTER THE CALL I RECEIVED DATA FOR
11/30 and 12/1. THE CATCH INCREASED TO 35 YEARLINGS
AND 102 TOTAL CHINOOK ON 11/30, AND TO 31 YEARLINGS
AND 67 TOTAL ON 12/1.

Spring Run Tributaries

Mill Creek - No Chinook have been caught since 10/30
even though a few small storms occurred over the
watershed. 16 yearlings were caught in the month
of October.

Deer Creek - 5 yearlings were caught 11/20 through
11/23 during a storm. No Chinook were caught
during 3 small storms on 11/8, 11/11, and 11/17.
Prior to that, 71 were caught between 10/16 and
11/4, most during the storm on 10/28.

Butte Creek - 27 yearlings were caught between 11/20
and 11/28 during a storm. No Chinook were caught
during two storms on 11/8 and 11/17. Prior to
that 493 were caught between 10/5 and 11/2, most
not associated with any storms.

Lower Sutter Bypass - No Chinook have been caught this
season. The flow is low and the trap is not operating
efficiently.

Lower Sacramento River

Tisdale Weir - 44 yearlings were caught 11/24 and 7 more

11/26. One adipose fin clip was caught 11/26. Since then, none have been reported. Prior to 11/24, 3 were caught in October and November.

Knights Landing - 3 yearlings were caught 11/24. Since then, none have been reported, although the trap has not operated continuously due to heavy debris.

Delta

Lower Sacramento River Beach Seines - The only Chinook caught this season was a winter run size Chinook on 11/5.

North Delta Beach Seines - No Chinook have been caught this season.

Sacramento Trawl - The first yearling Chinook of the season was caught 11/08. Prior to that the last Chinook was caught in September.

Delta Beach Seines - No salmon have been caught.

Chippis Island - 1 yearling size salmon was 11/29. Prior to that the last one was caught 11/15. Delta Smelt has limited the trawl effort substantially this season. AFTER THE CALL I RECEIVED DATA FOR 12/1. 5 YEARLINGS WERE CAUGHT IN SIX TOWS. ONE WAS ADIPOSE FIN CLIPPED AND WAS CONFIRMED TO BE FROM THE COLEMAN LATE-FALL 11/12 RELEASE.

Mossdale - Trawl started Monday, 10/18. No salmon have been caught.

SWP and CVP Salvage Facilities

Three yearlings were salvaged at the SWP 11/27. One was adipose fin clipped, and was confirmed to be from the Coleman late-fall release 11/12. AFTER THE CALL I RECEIVED DATA FOR 11/29 THROUGH 12/1. TWO YEARLINGS WERE SALVAGED AT THE CVP ON 11/19, ALTHOUGH ONE WAS 155mm. 2 YEARLINGS WERE SALVAGED ON 11/30. 5 YEARLINGS WERE SALVAGED AT THE CVP AND SWP 12/1, AND ONE WAS ADIPOSE FIN CLIPPED. THE ADIPOSE FIN CLIPPED CHINOOK SALVAGED 11/27 WAS CONFIRMED TO BE FROM THE COLEMAN LATE-FALL RELEASE 11/12.

AFRP DELTA ACTION 8 DECEMBER EXPERIMENT

The Delta Action 8 Smolt Survival Experiment for December is scheduled to occur between December 1 and 20, depending on hydrologic conditions and indicators of in-river yearling Chinook emigration. The indicator described by the b(2) Implementation Team (B2IT) and subsequently modified by the Team and DAT is observation of 10 yearlings in the Delta and at the export facilities within 7 days. The indicator was sensitive and developed as a guideline to initiate discussion of the most efficient use of b(2) water and the timing of the smolt survival experiment. The indicator was observed over the Thanksgiving

weekend. The yearlings were observed at Knights Landing, the export facilities and Chipps Island, but not within the Delta. The DAT and B2IT both decided to wait until more yearlings are observed within the Delta, particularly at Sacramento. Once the indicators are observed, the export reduction and experiment can begin at the earliest 2 days later, and longer if the weekend is involved.

The CVP November Forecast is available at
<http://www.mp.usbr.gov/cvo/index.html>.

In the Dry Forecast, 73,000 af was scheduled for the b(2) export reduction in December, and 100,000 af for January. In the Normal Forecast, 100,000 ac was scheduled for both months. According to the accounting rules, no b(2) water has been debited this season because releases at Folsom and Shasta were made to maintain the flood pool.

During December, the export reduction is scheduled to occur at the CVP. The SWP is scheduled to pump at capacity, up to 6,680 cfs, to take advantage of excess inflow to the Delta.

DELTA CROSS CHANNEL GATE CLOSURE

The Delta Cross Channel Gates were closed 11/26 for fisheries protection. At the time water quality was not a concern with regard to closing the gates. A spring tidal cycle occurring over the Thanksgiving weekend, resulted in increased salinity but was still below EC profile in the Spring Run Protection Plan. Since then, water quality at some indicator stations in the Spring Run Protection Plan are approaching salinity profile, and chlorides at Rock Slough are approaching compliance levels. Contra Costa Water District is scheduled to increase pumping at Rock Slough to reduce the chloride levels at Rock Slough, but Contra Costa Water District believes the Spring Run Protection Plan water quality profile in the Delta are necessary to provide appropriate water quality at their new Old River intake location. If water quality continues to degrade we will convene a DAT call to discuss whether to keep the Cross Channel Gates closed for fisheries protection or open them for water quality protection.

ELECTRONIC DATA REPORTING AND DISSEMINATION

Most field data is being transmitted electronically to the IEP/CVPIA Internet Database. Data from three indicator stations are still not being transmitted to the Internet Database; Mill and Deer Creeks and Knights Landing.

The USFWS in Stockton has a website for their Delta monitoring program that can be reached at
<http://165.235.108.8/usfws/monitoring/report.asp>

Last year's data or data that is more than 90 days old can be viewed at <http://sarabande.water.ca.gov:8000/~bdt/db/>. If you are interested in a demonstration of the website, contact Karl Jacobs at 227-0435.

The Spring Run Home Page is available at the following web site.

http://www2.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/spring_run/. The DFG server in Stockton is temporarily out of service, but is scheduled to be available by the end of the week.

OPERATIONS

Delta Inflow is above 18,000 cfs and the Net Delta Outflow Index is over 6,500 cfs.

Combined exports are above 10,000 cfs as tidal conditions allow.

The E/I ratio is less than 60% (14-day running average).

Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates

The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates continue to operate for salinity control since 11/10/99. DWR will be testing a new logic control system during December that will require operating the gates. The testing is necessary to ensure proper gate operation and salinity control in January when more stringent requirements are in effect.

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